

REMARKS

Claims 15-28 are pending in the application and have been presented for examination. Applicants have amended certain claims as indicated above. Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance of the present application in view of the presented claim amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Checkboxes in Paragraph 12, "Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119" of the Office Action Summary

The Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's comments regarding certified copies of the priority documents. However, the Applicants are not aware of any additional document submittal requirements. On March 21, 2006 the Applicants filed a Transmittal Letter to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) Concerning a Filing Under 35 U.S.C. 371, including a copy of the international application as filed and an English language translation of the international application as filed. The Applicants request that the Examiner advise the Applicants if additional documents are required to perfect the priority claim to the International Application Number PCT/DE2003/003202 filed on September 25, 2003.

Response to Objections to the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to as the Examiner asserts that the claim element a "service access unit includes a search engine configured to search the central register database," is not present in the drawings.

The Applicants note that reference character 15 in Figure 1 refers to a search means 15, and paragraph [00017] of the specification states, "[t]he service access means 6 also has search means 15, which can be used to search and address the central register means 3 in the communication network." The Examiner is invited to further elaborate this objection if the Applicants' response does not resolve the Examiner's concern.

Response to Examiner's Comments Regarding the Abstract

The presented abstract has been revised according to the Examiner's comments. If the Examiner requires any additional amendments to the Abstract, he is invited to advise the Applicants in the next Office Communication.

Response to Claim Objections

Responsive to the Examiner's objection to claims 17 and 20 due to the "configured to" phrase, the Applicants have amended claims 17 and 20. The phrase was also present in claims 26 and 28 and has been deleted from these claims as set forth above. It is anticipated that these amendments overcome the objection.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 15, 16, 19-22, 25, 26 and 28

Claims 15, 16, 19-22, 25, 26 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kreiner (U. S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0100975) in view of Jeansonne (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0023761).

Independent claim 15 has been amended as set forth above to more clearly claim the subject matter that the Applicants regard as the invention. These amendments are supported by paragraphs [00009] and [00017]

Kreiner discloses a personal digital gateway (PDG) for communicating with a linked communications device for providing selection and management of data sent to the linked communications device. Kreiner's PDG is essentially an interface device between two different communications devices, networks and systems that provide access to and management of personalized information for the connected devices, networks and systems.

By contrast, the present invention relates to two different networks that operate according to a variety of different protocols and at least one of the networks offering a nearly infinite variety of services as it comprises a worldwide internet. In fact, it is this variety of services available through the internet that makes the invention beneficial. Linking of the conventional field bus of the automation system to the communications network provides automation

components connected to the conventional field bus with nearly unlimited access to services available through the internet. For example, one of these services may be accessed to update software operative on one of the automation components. It is also noted that these automation components lack internet mechanisms, and amended claim 1 refers to this lack of internet mechanisms.

The Examiner refers to the PDG as representing the Applicants' automation system, but this reference is inapposite. The PDG is an interface or intermediate device, but the Applicants' automation system is an end device—it is not an interface or intermediate device. As an end device it communicates with another end device, i.e. the communications network. There is no reference in the Applicants' application to an intermediate or interface device. Also, the memory, keyboard, mouse, etc. elements cited by the Examiner may be elements of the Kreiner's PDG, but they are not included within the traditional definition of automation devices as defined by one skilled in the art.

The Applicants' service access unit is different from the communications devices referred to by Examiner Jiang. As claimed, the service access unit requests services from the communications network. The cited Kreiner devices appear to lack such functionality.

Dependent claims 16, 19 and 20 depend from claim 15 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 15 is allowable.

Independent claim 21 is a method claim that has been amended in a similar manner to claim 15. The remarks presented above also apply to claim 21 and the claim is therefore considered to be allowable over the cited art.

Dependent claims 22, 25 and 26 depend from independent claim 21 and are also believed to be in allowable condition.

Independent claim 28 is an apparatus claim that has been amended in a similar manner to claim 15. The remarks presented above also apply to claim 28 and the claim is therefore considered to be allowable over the cited art.

Claims 17, 18, 23 and 24

Claims 17, 18, 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kreiner (U. S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0100975) in view of Jeansonne (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0023761) and further in view of Aupperle (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0051027).

Claims 17 and 18 depend from independent claim 15 and claims 23 and 24 depend from independent claim 21. These four claims are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as their parent claims are considered allowable.

Claim 27

Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kreiner (U. S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0100975) in view of Jeansonne (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0023761) and further in view of Moran (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0083941).

Dependent claim 27 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons as its parent independent claim 21 is believed to be allowable.

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Conclusion

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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